



A brief history of the California Light House



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Abortion stays legal in Wyoming as its top court strikes down laws, including first US pill ban

By **MEAD GRUVER**
Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) —

Abortion will remain legal in Wyoming after the state Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that two laws barring the procedure, including the country's first explicit ban on abortion pills, violate the state constitution.

The justices sided with the state's only abortion clinic and others who had sued over the abortion bans passed since 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Wyoming is one of the most conservative states, but the 4-1 ruling from justices all appointed by Republican governors was unsurprising in that it upheld every previous lower court ruling that the abortion bans violated the state constitution.

Wellspring Health Access in Casper, the abortion access advocacy group Chelsea's Fund and four women, including two ob-



This April 24, 2023 photo, shows the Wellspring Health Access clinic in Casper, Wyo.

Associated Press

stetricians, argued that the laws violated a state constitutional amendment ensuring competent adults have the right to make their own health care decisions.

Voters approved the constitutional amendment in

2012 in response to the federal Affordable Care Act. The justices recognized that the amendment wasn't written to apply to abortion but said it's not their job to "add words" to the state constitution.

"But lawmakers could ask Wyoming voters to consider a constitutional amendment that would more clearly address this issue," the justices wrote. The ruling upholds abortion as "essential health care"

that shouldn't be subject to government interference, Wellspring Health Access President Julie Burkhart said in a statement.

"Our clinic will remain open and ready to provide compassionate reproductive health care, including abortions, and our patients in Wyoming will be able to obtain this care without having to travel out of state," Burkhart said.

The clinic opened in 2023 as the only facility of its kind in the state, almost a year later than planned after an arson attack.

A woman who admitted breaking in and causing heavy damage by lighting gasoline that she poured over the clinic floors pleaded guilty and has been serving a five-year prison sentence.

Attorneys for the state had argued before the state Supreme Court that abortion can't violate the Wyoming constitution because it is not health care. □

FAA picks 2 firms to replace 612 outdated radar systems that air traffic controllers rely on



In this Sept. 4, 2013 photo, an air traffic controller works at computer screens and a digital clock showing Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), or Zulu time, is seen in this view looking eastward from the control tower at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Associated Press

By **JOSH FUNK**
AP Transportation Writer

The federal government has picked two companies to replace 612 radar systems nationwide that date back to the 1980s as part of a multibillion-dollar overhaul of the nation's air traffic control system.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and the Federal Aviation Administration said Monday that contractors RTX and Spanish firm Indra will replace the radar systems by the summer of 2028. The administration set an ambitious goal of completing the overhaul by the end of 2028 near the conclusion of President Donald Trump's current term in office.

"Our radar network is outdated and long overdue for replacement. Many of the units have exceeded their intended service life, making them increasingly expensive to maintain and difficult to support," FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford said.

The FAA has been spending most of its \$3 billion equipment budget just maintaining the fragile old system that still relies on floppy discs in places. Some of the equipment is old and isn't manufactured anymore, so the FAA sometimes has to search for spare parts on eBay.

Technical failures twice knocked out the radar for air traffic controllers managing planes around Newark Liberty International Airport last spring, and those problems led to thousands of cancellations and delays at the major hub airport. □

Trump tries to rally House GOP as the party's majority narrows but meanders along the way

By **SEUNG MIN KIM** and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday defended his actions during the Capitol riot five years ago, joked about being liberal-minded to win the votes of transgender people and mocked a predecessor's use of a wheelchair while delivering a meandering speech to House Republicans as the party enters a critical election year facing a razor-thin majority in the House. The remarks were intended to ensure both the GOP's executive and legislative wings are aligned on their agenda heading into the November midterms that will determine party control of Congress. But Trump spent more time airing his grievances in the lengthy appearance than he did about the U.S. military operation in Venezuela that captured leader Nicolas Maduro or specific steps he's taking to bring down prices with polls showing inflation as the public's top concern.

The president also did not discuss new policy initiatives or legislation on his agenda for the year. "We won every swing state. We won the popular vote by millions. We won everything," Trump said, recounting his performance in the 2024 presidential election while seeming to acknowledge that history will side with the Democratic Party in November. "But they say that when you win the presidency, you lose the midterm," he said.

Political trends show that the party in the White House usually loses seats in Congress in the midterm elections, and the GOP has little room for error in the House.

But Trump did try to rally the caucus at points, saying his first year back in office was so successful that Republicans should win in November on that basis alone. He briefly touched on Venezuela, talked about mon-



President Donald Trump arrives at an annual policy retreat, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, in Washington. Associated Press

ey coming into the U.S. through tariffs and direct investment, and deals he has made to bring down drug prices.

"You have so many good nuggets. You have to use them.

If you can sell them we're going to win," Trump said. He claimed that, "We've had the most successful first year of any president in history and it should be a positive."

The House GOP is facing a sudden narrowing of their already-thin majority with the death of California Rep. Doug LaMalfa, announced Tuesday, and the resignation of former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, which took effect at midnight.

"You can't be tough when you have a majority of three, and now, sadly, a little bit less than that," Trump said after paying tribute to LaMalfa, noting the challenges House Speaker Mike Johnson faces in keeping their ranks unified.

The president also noted that Rep. Jim Baird, R-Wis., was recovering after a "bad" car accident, further slimming Johnson's vote margins.

House Republicans convened as they launch their new year agenda, with health care issues in particular dogging the GOP

heading into the midterm elections. Votes on extending expired health insurance subsidies are expected as soon as this week, and it's unclear whether the president and the party will try to block its passage.

Trump said he would be meeting soon with 14 companies to discuss health insurance.

In remarks that approached 90 minutes, Trump also mused about unconstitutionally seeking a third term as president, spending more time talking about that than the upcoming midterms he desperately wants Republicans to win to keep Democrats at bay. □

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New report shows a 25% drop in deaths of on-duty law enforcement officers

By **CLAUDIA LAUER**
Associated Press

Deaths of on-duty law enforcement officers in the U.S. decreased by nearly 25% in 2025, according to an annual report.

The report from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, shared with The Associated Press ahead of its release Tuesday, shows a drop in all categories of fatalities, from 148 total deaths in 2024 to 111 last year.

Officer firearm fatalities dropped to 44, a 15% decrease from 52 in 2024 and the lowest number in at least a decade, according to the Fund's previous annual officer fatality reports.

"I always like to see that firearms deaths are down. They are the tip of the spear for egregious acts," said Bill Alexander, the chief executive officer of the Fund, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that works to memorialize fallen officers, educate the public about the profession and improve officer safety.

Traffic-related deaths also decreased nearly 23% between 2024 and 2025, including both fatal traffic accidents and officers killed after being struck by a vehicle — usually during traffic stops.



Officers wait for slain West York Borough Police Officer Andrew Duarte's funeral procession from Living Word Community Church, in Red Lion, Pa., Feb. 28, 2025.

"Even one officer fatality is too many, and our ultimate goal is to have none. But we're heartened by any decrease in those numbers," Alexander said.

Alexander said the reduction in traffic-related officer deaths likely can be attributed to an increase in the national conversation around officer safety on the road.

More states around the country have passed "move-over" laws requiring drivers to move out of the

lane closest to traffic stops or accidents while passing them.

There have been increased efforts to direct officers to approach the passenger side of cars during traffic stops, removing them from travel lanes, Alexander said.

The reason behind the decrease in firearm fatalities is harder to define. While many departments have offered increased safety training and have better equipment for firearm in-

juries, Alexander said luck and other unquantifiable factors also play a role.

"Some of it could come down to an officer being shot close to a hospital or maybe the officers had a tactical emergency kit or better blood stopping equipment," he said.

Fewer fatalities also doesn't mean fewer instances of officers being shot or being shot at, he said.

The National Fraternal Order of Police tracks the number of officer shootings,

both fatal and non-fatal. That report does not include incidents where officers were shot at and not struck by gunfire.

The 2025 FOP report, released this week, showed there was a small increase in officers shot while on-duty last year increasing from 342 in 2024 to 347 in 2025.

Among the high-profile shooting deaths in 2025 was Andrew Duarte, a West York Borough Police Department officer who was shot and killed in February while responding to a man who had taken several people hostage in a York, Pennsylvania hospital.

And law enforcement officers from around the country attended funeral services Monday for Delaware State Trooper Matthew "Ty" Snook, who was shot and killed while he was working an overtime shift at a DMV office on Dec. 23, after pushing a DMV employee out of the way of the gunman.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's fatality report also showed no on-duty officer fatalities in 17 states and Washington D.C., and none at the nation's federal and tribal law enforcement agencies last year. □

Associated Press

New Haven police chief abruptly retires after theft allegations, mayor says

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — New Haven's police chief abruptly retired following

allegations he stole money from a department account, Mayor Justin Elicker



This undated photo provided by the City of New Haven, Conn., shows Police Chief Karl Jacobson.

Associated Press

announced Monday. The Democrat said Chief Karl Jacobson admitted he took money from a city fund that compensates confidential informants for helping police solve crimes.

He said the chief acknowledged taking the funds for personal use when three of his deputies confronted him Monday morning over the financial irregularities. Elicker called the allegations "shocking" and a "betrayal of public trust."

"No one is above the law," he said in an evening press conference at the police station. "We put our trust

in law enforcement to uphold the law, not to violate the law themselves."

Jacobson didn't immediately return an email seeking comment Monday. He had served as police chief in one of Connecticut's largest cities and home to Yale University for more than three years.

The mayor said he was set to meet with Jacobson and place him on administrative leave when the chief instead submitted his paperwork to retire, effective Monday.

Elicker said it's unclear how much and for how long Jacobson had been

taking money from the informants' account and that it doesn't appear others were involved. He said city officials are cooperating with state investigators looking into the matter.

Elicker said he has tapped Assistant Police Chief David Zannelli, who was among the officers to confront Jacobson over the funds, to serve as interim chief.

Jacobson took office in July 2022, just weeks after a Black man was paralyzed in the back of a police van in an incident that roiled the police department and the city. □

Canada's Indigenous governor general to visit Greenland as Trump renews talk of annexing it

By **ROB GILLIES**

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's Indigenous governor general and its foreign minister will visit Greenland in early February, Prime Minister Mark Carney said Tuesday. The visit comes as U.S. President Donald Trump renewed his call for the U.S. to take control of Greenland, the Inuit self-governing territory of the kingdom of Denmark. Trump has also previously talked about making Canada the 51st state. Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and Governor General Mary Simon, who is of Inuk descent, are expected to open a consulate in Nuuk, Greenland.

"The future of Greenland and Denmark are decided solely by the people of Denmark," Carney said while meeting with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen at Canada's embassy in Paris.

Anand said as an Arctic nation, Canada continues to take a leadership role in defending and protecting the Arctic in conjunction with Indigenous peoples and other Arctic countries. "This is the heart of our Arctic foreign policy and the rationale for the official open-



Governor General of Canada Mary Simon speaks at the Invictus Games opening ceremony in Vancouver, Canada, Feb. 8, 2025.

ing of a Canadian consulate in Nuuk, Greenland in the coming weeks," Anand said on social media. The island of Greenland, 80% of which lies above the Arctic Circle, is home to about 56,000 mostly Inuit people. Simon became Canada's first Indigenous governor general in 2021 and previously served as Canada's ambassador to Denmark. The governor general is the representative of Britain's

King Charles, who is the head of state in Canada, which is a member of the Commonwealth of former colonies. The leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom joined Denmark's Frederiksen on Tuesday in defending Greenland's sovereignty in the wake of Trump's comments about Greenland, which is part of the NATO military alliance. The lead-

ers issued a statement reaffirming the strategic, mineral-rich Arctic island "belongs to its people." Frederiksen and Carney are in Paris for the "coalition of the willing" talks on Ukraine, but Carney made a point of meeting with Frederiksen and NATO's secretary-general ahead of those meetings. "You have been very clear in your statement when it comes to the respect

for national sovereignty," Frederiksen said to Carney. "We are both into securing the Arctic region and together with all our NATO allies we can secure the region, so hopefully everybody is willing to work together."

Stephen Miller, the White House deputy chief of staff, said Monday that Greenland should be part of the United States in spite of a warning by Frederiksen that a U.S. takeover of Greenland would amount to the end of NATO.

Trump has argued the U.S. needs to control Greenland to ensure the security of the NATO territory in the face of rising threats from China and Russia in the Arctic. "It's so strategic right now," he told reporters Sunday.

Carney said he's made Arctic security a priority.

"We are making progress within NATO but we have to do more," Carney said at an earlier press conference in Paris.

Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal, said it's important at this point for Canada to show solidarity with the people of Greenland. □

Associated Press

Israeli foreign minister visits Somaliland after contentious recognition of breakaway territory

By **OMAR FARUK**

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

— The Israeli foreign minister said Tuesday that Israel would soon open an embassy in Somaliland as he made the first visit there since his government's contentious move to formally recognize the breakaway Somali territory as a sovereign state.

Israel's decision to become the first country to recognize Somaliland has been criticized or rejected by the African Union and others. Somalia said Tuesday that it "condemns in the strongest terms the unauthorized incursion" by Gideon Saar, describing

his visit to Somaliland as "an unacceptable interference in the internal affairs" of Somalia.

Video footage shared on social media purported to show fighter jets flying over Hargeisa, the Somaliland capital, during Saar's visit, but it was not immediately clear which country the aircraft belonged to.

While meeting with the Somaliland leader, Saar said Israel was undeterred by the criticism and that the two governments would "soon" open embassies and appoint ambassadors, according to a transcript shared with The Associated Press.

"We hear the attacks, the

criticism, the condemnations," Saar said. "Nobody will determine for Israel who we recognize and who we maintain diplomatic relations with."

Saar met with Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, also known as Irro, and other Somaliland government officials at the presidential palace.

Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 during a descent into conflict that continues to leave the east African country fragile. Despite having its own government and currency, Somaliland had never before been recognized by any

nation. Somaliland's Information Ministry said in a post on X that Saar and his delegation were received

by senior members of the Somaliland Cabinet when they landed at the airport in Hargeisa. □



Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar speaks during a press conference after talks with his Serbian counterpart Marko Djuric in Belgrade, Serbia, Sept. 30, 2025.

Associated Press

New deadly clashes between Syrian forces and Kurdish fighters erupt in Aleppo

By **OMAR ALBAM**

Associated Press

ALEPPO, Syria (AP) — The deadliest clashes so far broke out Tuesday between Syrian government forces and Kurdish fighters in a contested area of the northern city of Aleppo, as efforts to merge the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces with the national army have shown little progress.

Syria's state-run SANA news agency said a soldier was killed and three others were wounded in an attack by the SDF. State TV later reported that three civilians, including two women, were killed and others were wounded, including two children, in shelling of a residential area that it blamed on the SDF. SANA also said nine Aleppo Directorate of Agriculture employees were wounded by SDF shelling that hit its office.

The SDF in a statement denied being behind the shelling that killed the civilians and said a shell launched by "factions affiliated with the Damascus government" landed in the al-Midan neighborhood. The SDF claimed the target



Ahmad Abu Sheikh, right, waits outside a hospital where his daughter, Fatima al-Zahra, 4, is receiving treatment after she was wounded when clashes broke out between Syrian government forces and Kurdish fighters in a contested area of the northern city of Aleppo, Syria, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026.

was the adjacent Kurdish Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood.

"This indiscriminate shelling constitutes a direct attack on residential areas and exposes the lives of civilians to grave danger," it said.

Civilians caught in intense fighting

The SDF also said a drone strike launched by gov-

ernment forces killed one resident of Sheikh Maqsoud and wounded two children, and that shelling in the nearby Bani Zaid neighborhood killed a woman and wounded dozens. There was no mention of those incidents in state media.

At Aleppo's Al-Razi Hospital, which received some

of the wounded, Ahmad Abu Sheikh was waiting to see his 4-year-old daughter, Fatima, who was on the operating table for hours after being hit by shrapnel from a shell. He said she lost her eye.

"I just want to know what can I tell my daughter when I see her? Where did her eye go?" he said.

Associated Press

Afrin Jawan, a civil society activist in Sheikh Maqsoud, said in a message that thousands of civilians were besieged in Kurdish neighborhoods "and subjected to indiscriminate shelling with all types of heavy and medium weapons ... by factions affiliated with the Ministry of Defense in Damascus."

The predominantly Kurdish neighborhoods of Sheikh Maqsoud and Achrafieh in Aleppo have seen intermittent clashes in recent months. Previous rounds of fighting ended with truce agreements.

By Tuesday evening, a tense calm had returned, but clashes flared up again within hours.

Difficulty in absorbing Kurdish forces

The SDF has tens of thousands of fighters and is the main force to be absorbed into Syria's military.

The leadership in Damascus under interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa signed a deal in March with the SDF, which controls much of the northeast, for it to merge with the Syrian army by the end of 2025. There have been disagreements on how it would happen. □

More than 300 people flee Colombia's Catatumbo to escape fighting in volatile border region

By **MANUEL RUEDA**

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — More than 300 people

have fled Colombia's volatile Catatumbo region to escape fighting by rebel groups, and have now

sought shelter in Cúcuta, a city near the border with Venezuela that was already bracing for a possible influx of refugees.

In a message posted on X Monday night, Colombia's Human Rights Ombudswoman Iris Marín said that the displaced people come from Tibu and El Tarra, two municipalities where fighting between rebel groups broke out in December.

Colombia's government deployed tanks and troops to Cúcuta on Saturday, after the U.S. raid on neighboring Venezuela that led to the capture of President Nicolás Maduro.

Drug traffickers and rebel groups have for years fought for control of the

Catatumbo region, one of Colombia's main coca-producing areas.

"Once again we call on rebel groups to cease combat and leave the civilian population out of the conflict," Marín wrote.

Last year, more than 56,000 people were displaced from Catatumbo, a large region that straddles the border with Venezuela, and at least 80 were killed, as the National Liberation Army waged an offensive against a rival group known as the FARC-EMC.

The humanitarian crisis prompted Colombia's government to suspend peace talks with the National Liberation Army that began in 2022.

Colombian officials have

said the country is preparing for a potential wave of Venezuelan refugees, though that has not materialized so far, as the situation in Venezuela appears to have stabilized, with Maduro's Vice President Delcy Rodríguez now sworn in as interim leader.

On Tuesday, Gloria Arriero, the director of Colombia's National Immigration Service, said that foot traffic along the border has not changed significantly since the attack on Venezuela, with approximately 60,000 people entering Cúcuta and leaving the city each day.

"We feel calm, because the flow of people has not increased," Arriero said at a news conference. □



Colombian soldiers guard the border with Venezuela in Villa del Rosario, Colombia, Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, two days after U.S. forces captured and removed Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Associated Press



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Infini Launches New Menu 14 Following Its Five-Year Anniversary Celebration



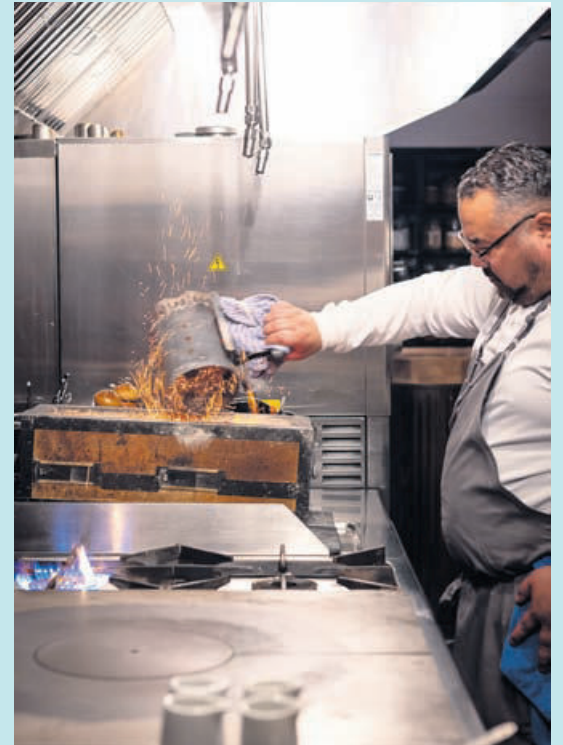
Infini has officially launched Menu 14, a special edition menu unveiled in celebration of the restaurant's five-year anniversary. The new menu revisits guests' favorite dishes from the past five years, blending nostalgia with fresh interpretations inspired by Infini's signature approach to modern gastronomy.

Infini stands for limitless possibilities, and Menu 14 perfectly embodies that philosophy. Crafted by Chef Urvin Croes, the menu celebrates innovation, creativity, and fearless exploration. Known for pushing boundaries through storytelling, technique, and flavor, Chef Urvin continues to redefine Aruba's fine dining scene. Infini's immersive chef's table concept invites guests to interact directly with the culinary team, transforming each dish into a chapter of an evolving narrative.

Before opening Infini, Chef Urvin honed his craft in Aruba's most prestigious hotel restaurants, rising from ap-

prentice cook to Sous Chef, and gaining international experience at the Michelin-rated Grand Hotel Karel V in Europe. His mission has always been to position Aruba as a leading culinary destination by reimagining local recipes with modern techniques and artistic precision. Dedicated to supporting local farmers and producers, Chef Urvin incorporates homegrown ingredients that reflect the island's rich food culture. His collaborations with these artisans are essential to Infini's distinctive culinary identity.

With numerous awards to his name—including being crowned the first-ever Iron



Chef Aruba—Chef Urvin remains grounded in his passion, curiosity, and love for sharing Aruba's story through food.

Menu 14 invites diners to taste, explore, and rediscover Infini's journey while looking forward to the limitless possibilities ahead. Reservations are highly recommended to experience this new chapter in Infini's evolving culinary story. □

PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a "lora"

(Oranjestad)—The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the 'Lora,' relies on how we act as humans. We've seen many hikers who've encountered the 'Lora' in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the 'Lora.' Please, don't just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival



of these birds for future generations.

No interfering, please

Please refrain from interfering with the "Lora". The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have

gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their reintroduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their

beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away

Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

Do not feed them food or water

You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival

skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let's work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. □



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CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors



(Oranjestad)—CAYA, one of Aruba's most beloved dining destinations, continues to celebrate the vibrant essence of Latin Caribbean cuisine with an exciting new menu that beautifully balances tradition and innovation.

Nestled in a beautifully restored traditional Aruban Cunucu house, surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers guests a dining experience that feels both authentic and contemporary. The restaurant's philosophy is simple yet profound: to create a space where the warmth of island hospitality meets the creativity of modern gastronomy.

The new menu reflects this vision with a series

of inspired dishes that showcase the diversity of Caribbean and Latin American flavors. From Cuba to Colombia, and from Aruba to Mexico, each plate tells a story rooted in heritage and reimagined through CAYA's modern lens.

Among the standout new appetizers are the **Tuna al Tamarindo**, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind *leche de tigre*, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean comfort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfec-



tion and served with *chimi-churri espuma*.

The main courses bring equal excitement. Highlights include the **Chilean Sea Bass**, pan fried and served with a smooth carrot and *ají amarillo* sauce, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, grilled paksoi and broccoli, hearts of palm, toasted cashews, and a fragrant lime leaf vinaigrette. Another showstopper is the **Duck and Rice**, a Caribbean interpretation of a Peruvian classic, featuring pan fried duck breast with aromatic green rice infused with local herbs, kombucha, and *ají amarillo*, finished with a pan fried egg and *sarsa criolla*.

Dessert lovers are in for a treat as well. The **Caribbean Black Forest** reimagines the classic with a tropical twist, featuring a rich brownie served with red fruit, coconut mousse, chocolate, and banana rum ice cream. The **Merengon Tropical** delights with sage panna cotta, mango and pineapple compote, mango sorbet, and citrus meringue.

Guests can also enjoy CAYA's new *Sabor Experience*, a limited time three course menu priced at \$79, allowing diners to explore an appetizer, main course, and dessert of their choice.

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts live music every Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for an evening of island charm and culinary artistry.

CAYA continues to invite locals and visitors alike to experience the heart of Aruba, where Latin Caribbean heritage comes alive in every dish, every note of music, and every heartfelt welcome. □

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □

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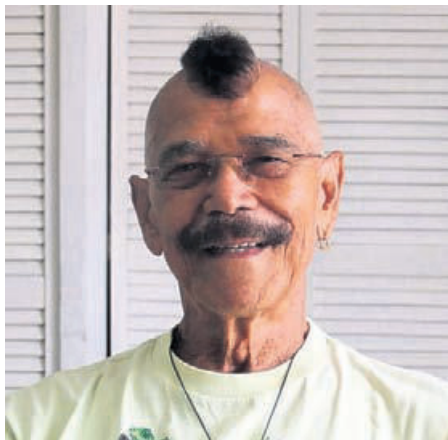
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A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolat-



ed. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914

to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse

rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode 336 – CCCXXXVI

Building the Future Without Erasing the Past

Etnia Nativa delves into Aruba's indigenous culture and the wisdom passed down by its earliest inhabitants—knowledge of survival techniques, medicinal plants, practical skills, celestial navigation, and weather patterns. These traditions have been preserved across generations, continuing to shape Aruba's cultural identity and reinforcing the island's enduring bond between its people, their knowledge, and the land itself.

In this episode, we examine the urgent need to balance progress with preservation. Aruba is growing rapidly through construction, infrastructure expansion, and economic development. While these changes bring benefits, they also pose serious threats to the island's natural environment and cultural heritage. Illegal construction, unsupervised activities, and unsustainable development practices are increasingly damaging the land, subsoil, and invaluable ecological and archaeological resources—losses that may be impossible to recover.

The alteration of our natural landscapes is having lasting consequences on our peace of mind. The little organic topsoil that remains is being destroyed without consideration. This destruction extends beyond ecosystems, threatening cultural heritage and marine life as well. In many ways, it alters sacred landscapes that connect the people of the land with the Aruba's past. As an independent NGO, our tireless efforts contribute our grain of sand by advocating for and inspiring communities, foundations, and government officials to work together. Our goal is to develop an educational rediscovery approach based on historical and scientific facts, while simultaneously digitizing tangible and intangible cultural heritage treasures in the broadest sense related to nation-building.

The urgency of identifying, rediscovering, and protecting our ancient wisdom is undeniable. The pace of development increases daily. Ongoing genomic research on the island's traditional inhabitants, along with studies of historical and colonial archives, has revealed new insights into our historical development. At the same time, online accessibility to public museums and related private collections is currently in progress.

Over recent decades, Aruba has seen the construction of numerous private housing projects, commercial buildings, shopping centers, parking facilities, and extensive road networks. Alongside new neighborhoods, schools, and community centers, these developments have contributed to ecological habitat reduction, the decline of endemic plant and animal species, and the disturbance or loss of archaeological sites. Imagine areas that were once largely undisturbed natural and cultural landscapes now transformed into luxury real estate developments.

Preserving historical buildings and archaeological resources requires collective awareness and objective decision-making. A large number of historic buildings that once stood in our capital, Oranjestad, have been replaced by modern commercial facilities. These resources should have formed part of Aruba's



tangible and intangible national heritage, contributing to a deeper understanding of the island's identity and origins. Once damaged or destroyed, they become extremely difficult and costly to recover.

Public education plays an important role in explaining the value of preservation and the benefits of responsible land use. Salvage archaeology—often conducted when sites are under immediate threat—focuses on the rescue and recovery of valuable information. However, time and funding constraints can limit this work, meaning that some contextual data may be permanently lost.

Archaeological sites in Aruba—including prehistoric caves, rock art, burial sites, and settlement remains—provide direct evidence of early human activity, particularly from periods when written records were limited or absent. Preserving artifacts and their original context is therefore essential for accurate interpretation and future study.

A commonly accepted principle in archaeology and history is to leave remains in their original location whenever possible. Advances in technology may allow future researchers to obtain more detailed information than is currently possible. This principle guides the work of organizations such as Etnia Nativa, which focuses on Aruba's ethnic roots, the agro-pottery culture, and the relationship between cultural heritage and the natural environment.

Etnia Nativa collaborates with Aruba's

Archaeological Department and other science-oriented organizations to protect archaeological resources or, when necessary, conduct responsible salvage operations. These "grain-of-sand" efforts aim to document and preserve materials that might otherwise be lost.

Historically, Aruba's landscape included widespread Kwihi trees (*Prosopis juliflora*), particularly around Oranjestad, and metates made of local stone were commonly found in Aruban homes. These elements reflect the island's agro-pottery heritage. Today, some of these materials are preserved through salvage and educational initiatives, where visitors can learn about archaeological objects, native art, and traditional practices through guided interpretation.

As Aruba continues to grow, balancing development with the preservation of its heritage and natural environment remains a challenge. Overdevelopment can transform the land in ways that disconnect it from its history—but with thoughtful planning and public awareness, we can ensure progress coexists with the island's rich cultural and ecological legacy. □

Step beyond the beaches and resorts and discover the heart of Aruba's heritage at Etnia Nativa. Explore the traditions, knowledge, and stories of the island's earliest inhabitants—by appointment only.

WhatsApp +297 592 2702
etnianaativa03@gmail.com

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories sur-

rounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitch a ride home, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Ev-



everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass holds a lot of value to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista

(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and

meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator'

in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and his-



tory.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 41 Horn sounds
1 Diver Louganis
5 Strikes, fast in a way

DOWN

- 10 Intensify
12 Deep pink
13 Kagan of the Supreme Court
14 Knowing
15 German article
16 Flock father
18 Garden visitor
19 Persist with
21 Skating spot
22 Newbies
24 Shade
25 Draw
29 Leave speechless
30 Some singers
32 Spell
33 Hamilton's bill
34 Gullet
35 Sports site
37 Make fun of
39 Disgusted
40 Completely full

C	O	B	R	A	S	A	B	L	E
A	X	L	E	S	C	U	R	E	S
S	C	A	M	S	A	T	O	M	S
S	A	C	A	L	L	O	W	M	E
I	R	K	Y	A	P	N	O	N	
S	T	E	M	Y	E	M	E	N	
		Y	E	S	R	O	Y		
		R	E	A	P	S	B	E	T
		R	O	D	A	L	E	D	E
		E	M	P	E	R	O	R	G
		P	E	E	L	S	R	A	I
		E	R	A	S	E	E	G	R
		L	O	S	E	R	D	O	L

- 1 Like Zeus and Ares
2 Charitable aid
3 Less bumpy
4 Sight site
5 Racket
6 Despondent
7 Mideast region
8 Pop, e.g.
9 Like sports cars
11 Sun shade
17 Olympics entrant
20 Praline bit
21 Showed over
23 Short times
25 Sound system
26 Groom's garb
27 Soup choice
28 Correcting aid
29 Elevator's place
31 Garbo, for one
33 Spigots
36 Bolt's partner
38 Put away

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13					14				
15				16	17			18	
19			20				21		
	22					23			
		24							
	25	26					27	28	
29					30				31
32				33				34	
35			36			37	38		
39						40			
41							42		

1-14

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

XLQ WNC SQKB OB XOTQ

AUOQB. XLQ YJJC SQKB OB

EJG'DQ XLQ ZOUIX.

— TOVLNQU NUXBLGUQD

Cryptoquote: YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DON'T DETERMINE WHERE YOU CAN GO. THEY MERELY DETERMINE WHERE YOU START. — NIDO QUBEIN

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 07 - 11 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	07	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	B	1
		BRILLIANT LADY	10.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	08	AIDABLU	08.00	18.00	B	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	C	1
		BRILLANCE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
FRI	09	OCEANIA NAUTICA	07.00	19.00	B	1
		MS RENAISSANCE	09.00	18.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL DREAM	09.00	22.00	I	1
SAT	10	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	07.00	15.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN STAR	07.00	19.00	C	1
SUN	11	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		3			6		1	8
4			9		7	5		6
	9	6	8					7
9		4	6	8	2			1
		7						
6				7	9	8	4	2
		2					9	4
			7	9	4		8	
	4			2	8	1		

Difficulty: ★★★

1/7

Answer to previous puzzle

5	6	1	4	8	9	2	3	7
8	9	3	2	7	6	4	1	5
2	4	7	1	3	5	6	8	9
4	2	9	3	5	7	8	6	1
3	7	8	6	9	1	5	2	4
6	1	5	8	4	2	7	9	3
7	3	2	9	6	4	1	5	8
1	8	4	5	2	3	9	7	6
9	5	6	7	1	8	3	4	2

Difficulty: ★★

1/6

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A board above the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange displays the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

Associated Press

3 Big Changes for Retirement Planning this year

Christine Benz of Morningstar

For retirement savers and retirees, the new year brings more than the usual inflation adjustments to retirement contributions. The retirement legislation known as Secure 2.0 will also continue to phase in, and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will have impacts too.

Here's a roundup of three key changes and some moves to consider.

Roth-only catch-up contributions for high-income 401(k) investors

Thanks to a provision in the Secure 2.0 retirement legislation, high-income earners (with \$150,000 or more in FICA income in the prior year) who are over 50 and investing in 401(k) or other company retirement plans must make catch-up contributions to their plans' Roth option, rather than traditional tax-deferred contributions, starting this year.

For 2026, 401(k) investors under 50 can contribute \$24,500 to their company plans, plus \$8,000 in catch-up contributions if they're over 50, for a total of \$32,500. In addition, people age 60 to 63 can make "super-catch-up" contributions: \$11,250 on top of \$24,500.

Potential Action Items: Some 401(k) plans may not have a Roth option, so those participants should instead consider making a full IRA contribution in addition to their baseline 401(k) contributions (\$24,500). This year, the IRA contribution limit is \$8,600 for people over 50 and \$7,500 for those under 50. □

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Divi Village Golf

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25 weeks remaining
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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Oduber: Tel.585 8028
San Nicolas:
Aloe:Tel.584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
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Child Abuse Prevention
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Musk's AI chatbot faces global backlash over sexualized images of women and children

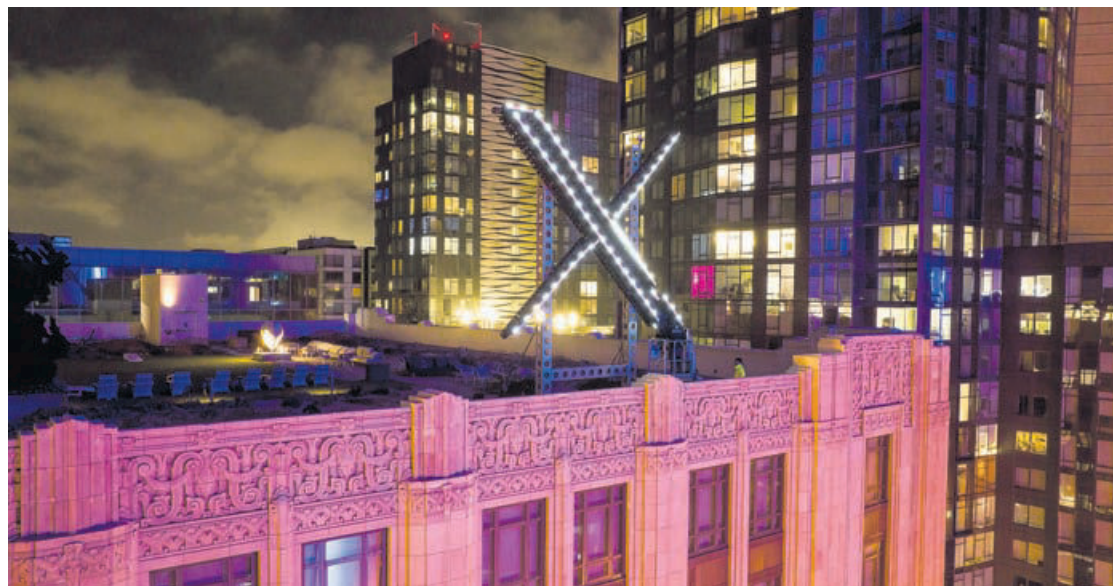
By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok is facing a backlash from governments around the world after a recent surge in sexualized images of women and children generated without consent by the artificial intelligence-powered tool.

On Tuesday, Britain's top technology official demanded that Musk's social media platform X take urgent action while a Polish lawmaker cited it as a reason to enact digital safety laws.

The European Union's executive arm has denounced Grok while officials and regulators in France, India, Malaysia and Brazil have condemned the platform and called for investigations.

Rising alarm from disparate nations points to the nightmarish potential of nudification apps that use



Workers install lighting on an "X" sign atop the company headquarters, formerly known as Twitter, in downtown San Francisco, July 28, 2023.

Associated Press

artificial intelligence to generate sexually explicit deepfake images.

Here's a closer look:

Image generation

The problem emerged after the launch last year of Grok Imagine, an AI image generator that allows users to create videos and pictures by typing in text prompts. It includes a so-called "spicy mode" that can generate adult content.

It snowballed late last month when Grok, which is hosted on X, apparently began granting a large number of user requests to modify images posted by others. As of Tuesday, Grok users could still generate images of women using requests such as, "put her in a transparent bikini."

The problem is amplified both because Musk pitches his chatbot as an edgier alternative to rivals with more safeguards, and because Grok's images are publicly visible, and can therefore be easily spread.

Nonprofit group AI Forensics said in a report that it analyzed 20,000 images generated by Grok between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 and found that 2% depicted a person who appeared to be 18 or younger, including 30 of young or very young women or girls, in bikinis or transparent clothes.

Musk response

Musk's artificial intelligence company, xAI, responded to a request for comment with the automated re-

sponse, "Legacy Media Lies".

However, X did not deny that the troublesome content generated through Grok exists. Yet it still claimed in a post on its Safety account, that it takes action against illegal content, including child sexual abuse material, "by removing it, permanently suspending accounts, and working with local governments and law enforcement as necessary."

The platform also repeated a comment from Musk, who said, "Anyone using Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content."

A growing list of countries are demanding that Musk does more to rein in explicit or abusive content.

Britain

X must "urgently" deal with the problem, Technology Secretary Liz Kendall said Tuesday, adding that she supported additional scrutiny from the U.K.'s communications regulator, Ofcom. Kendall said the content is "absolutely appalling, and unacceptable in decent society." "We cannot and will not allow the proliferation of these demeaning and degrading images, which are disproportionately aimed at women and girls." Ofcom said Monday it has made "urgent contact" with X. "We are aware of serious concerns raised about a feature on Grok on

X that produces undressed images of people and sexualised images of children," the watchdog said.

The watchdog said it contacted both X and xAI to understand what steps it has taken to comply with British regulations.

Under the U.K.'s Online Safety Act, social media platforms must prevent and remove child sexual abuse material when they become aware of it.

Poland

A Polish lawmaker used Grok on Tuesday as a reason for national digital safety legislation that would beef up protections for minors and make it easier for authorities to remove content.

In an online video, Włodzimierz Czarzasty, speaker of the parliament, said he wanted make himself a target of Grok to highlight the problem, as well as appeal to Poland's president for support of the legislation. "Grok lately is stripping people. It is undressing women, men and children. We feel bad about it. I would, honestly, almost want this Grok to also undress me," he said.

European Union

The bloc's executive arm is "well aware" that Grok is being used to for "explicit sexual content with some output generated with child-like images," European Commission spokesman Thomas Regnier said. "This is not spicy. This is ille-

gal. This is appalling. This is disgusting. This is how we see it, and this has no place in Europe. This is not the first time that Grok is generating such output," he told reporters Monday.

After Grok spread Holocaust-denial content last year, according to Regnier, the Commission sought more information from Musk's social media platform X. The response from X is currently being analyzed, he said.

France

The Paris prosecutor's office said it's widening an ongoing investigation of X to include sexually explicit deepfakes after officials receiving complaints from lawmakers.

Three government ministers alerted prosecutors to "manifestly illegal content" generated by Grok and posted on X, according to a government statement last week. The government also flagged problems with country's communications regulator over possible breaches of the EU's Digital Services Act.

"The internet is neither a lawless zone nor a zone of impunity: sexual offenses committed online constitute criminal offenses in their own right and fall fully under the law, just as those committed offline," the government said.

India

The Indian government on Friday issued an ultimatum to X, demanding that it take down all "unlawful content" and take action against offending users.

The country's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology also ordered the company to review Grok's "technical and governance framework" and file a report on actions taken.

The ministry accused Grok of "gross misuse" of AI and serious failures of its safeguards and enforcement by allowing the generation and sharing of "obscene images or videos of women in derogatory or vulgar manner in order to indecently denigrate them." □



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The NBA season is nearing the midway point. There are some surprises, good and bad

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

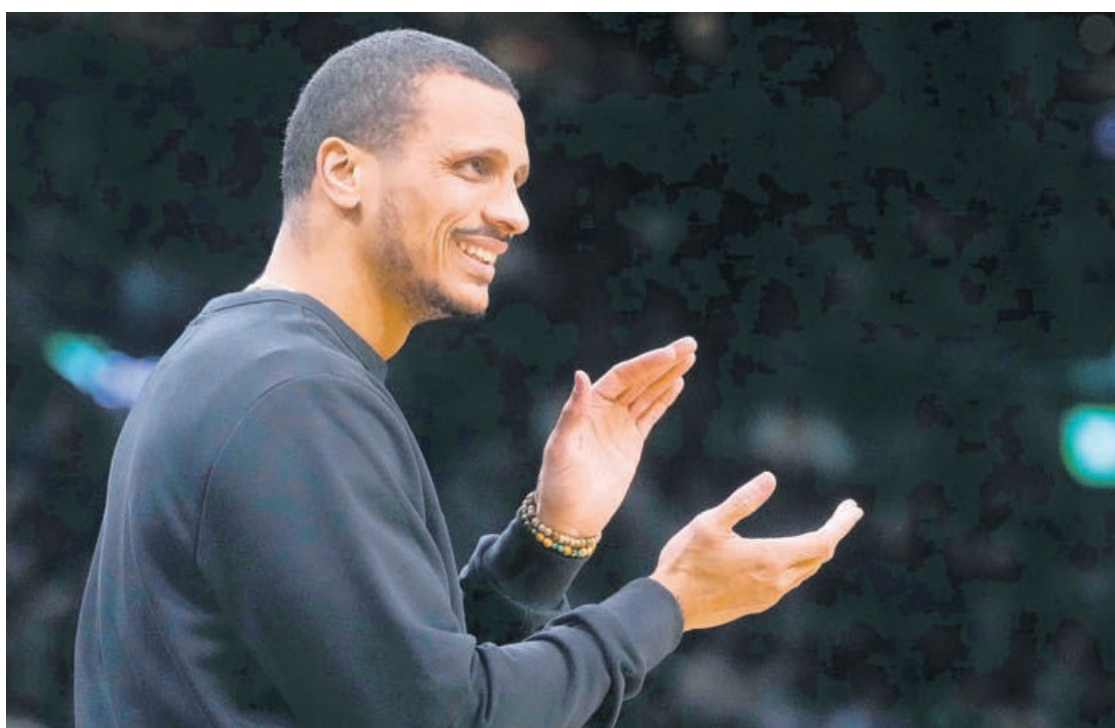
A year ago at this time, the Boston Celtics had a starting lineup of Jaylen Brown, Jayson Tatum, Kristaps Porzingis, Al Horford and Jrue Holiday.

The Celtics were in second place in the Eastern Conference.

Brown is still starting for Boston. Every other name in that first unit has since changed. Tatum hasn't played this season because of an Achilles injury, Porzingis is with Atlanta, Horford is with Golden State, and Holiday is with Portland.

And the Celtics are in second place in the Eastern Conference.

The NBA regular season is nearing the midway point some teams will start hitting the 41-game mark, the halfway mark of the 82-game slate, this weekend and surprise stories have emerged in many cases, some good, some bad. The



Boston Celtics head coach Joe Mazzulla applauds towards his players during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls, Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, in Boston.

Associated Press

Celtics are surely on the good side of that list. Consider what the expectations were a few months ago: Tatum was dealing with the Achilles tear, Porzingis and Holiday were

traded and Horford chose to join the Warriors. Many of the decisions the Celtics made were to get out from under a potential luxury tax bill that was going to be bigger than the

gross domestic product of Micronesia. But while the perception that Boston was entering a rebuild, reset or reload year, the Celtics insisted that wasn't the reality.

At 23-12, it sure looks like they were right.

"Guys have an understanding of what they're supposed to do, and that's top to bottom," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said Monday night. "I think when you have that, you just have a better level of connectivity and then you're just able to do your job and execute what needs to be executed. ... Have an understanding of who we are as a team, have an understanding of what the game plan is, execute that regardless of who you're out there on the floor with and make sure you play hard." It sounds so easy.

Boston is far from the only story that could be considered a surprise to some this season. Detroit, at 27-9 and leading the East, is off to the second-best 36-game start in its history topped only by a 31-5 mark in 2005-06. (The Pistons were also 27-9 in 2007-08.) □

Novak Djokovic withdraws from the Australian Open tuneup tournament in Adelaide

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

Novak Djokovic withdrew from the Australian Open tuneup tournament in Adelaide, saying Monday that he isn't prepared to return to competition ahead of the year's first Grand Slam event.

"To all my fans in Adelaide, unfortunately I'm not quite physically ready to compete in the Adelaide International next week," Djokovic posted on social media. "It's personally very disappointing to me, as I have such great memories of winning the title there two years ago. I was really excited about returning as it truly felt like playing at home."

Djokovic, a 38-year-old with a men's-record 24 major singles championships, has not played an official match in nearly two full months. He defeated Lorenzo Musetti in the final of the Hellenic Championship

in Athens on Nov. 8, then announced he would be pulling out of the ATP Finals for the second year in a row, citing a shoulder injury.

"My focus is now on my preparation for the Australian Open," Djokovic wrote Monday, "and I look forward to arriving in Melbourne soon and seeing all the tennis fans in Australia."

Main-draw play at Melbourne Park begins on Jan. 18.

Djokovic has won the hard-court major that opens the Grand Slam season a record 10 times in all, including most recently in 2023. He exited in the semifinals each of the past two years, including being forced to stop playing after one set against Alexander Zverev in that round in 2025 because of a torn hamstring muscle. Djokovic reached the semifinals at all four majors last season. □



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, plays a shot against Yannick Hanfmann, of Germany, during the ATP250 tournament semifinal tennis match in Athens, Greece, Nov. 7, 2025.

Associated Press

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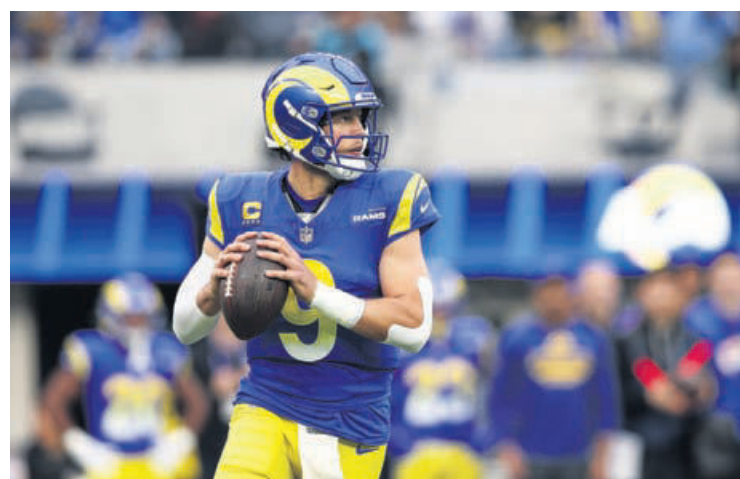
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Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford (9) looks to pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, in Inglewood, Calif.
Associated Press

NFL MVP debate will continue until a winner is announced next month

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL regular season has ended and the MVP debate continues.

It could be another close race with no clear front-runner. Matthew Stafford and Drake Maye have the best odds, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Playoff results won't matter because it's a regular-

season award. Winners of the AP NFL awards will be revealed at "NFL Honors" on Feb. 5.

Stafford had an outstanding season for the Los Angeles Rams, leading them to a 12-5 record and the NFC's No. 5 seed. Maye led the New England Patriots (14-3) to a 10-win turnaround and the AFC's No. 2 seed in just his second season.

Stafford was first in the NFL with 4,707 yards and 46 touchdowns. His passer rating of 109.2 was second only to Maye, who finished at 113.5. Maye had 4,394 yards passing and 31 TDs. Both quarterbacks threw eight interceptions. Maye had the higher completion percentage, 72% to 65%. Christian McCaffrey also belongs in the conversation after an outstanding do-it-all season in which he helped the injury-depleted San Francisco 49ers (12-5) overcome losing several key players and going long stretches without QB Brock Purdy. The Niners even reached Week 18 with a chance at the No. 1 seed before Seattle's defense shut them down in a 13-3 win.

A running back hasn't won the MVP award since Adrian Peterson in 2012.

Micah Parsons is worthy of consideration. Parsons tore his ACL during Green Bay's loss to Denver in Week 15. The Packers were 9-3-1 in games he finished; 0-4 in the others, including last week when they rested starters.

Quarterbacks have won the MVP award 12 straight seasons. Those QBs have played for a No. 1 seed nine times in that span and a No. 2 seed the other

three.

Only three quarterbacks have ever won MVP on a team that didn't win its division. Peyton Manning did it in 2008, Steve McNair as a co-MVP in 2003 and Johnny Unitas in 1967, when the Colts went 11-1-2 but missed the playoffs.

Last year, Josh Allen edged Lamar Jackson for MVP. However, Jackson was the first-team All-Pro. It was the first time a first-team All-Pro didn't win the NFL MVP award since 1987, when John Elway was the MVP and Joe Montana received All-Pro honors.

The MVP award is given to a player who had the most valuable season while All-Pro is a statistical recognition. All-Pro rosters will be announced this week and the debate will still continue until next month.

Playoff seeding

The Detroit Lions proposed last season that playoff seeding should be based on winning percentage instead of automatically placing division winners in the top four spots.

NFL owners voted against it in May because a majority value the importance of teams winning their own division.

"I'm a division purist," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. The league will likely revisit this idea after a second straight season in which three teams with better records will play on the road during wild-card weekend. The 49ers (12-5) play at the Philadelphia Eagles (11-6). The Rams (12-5) play at the Carolina Panthers (8-9). The Houston Texans (12-5) play at the Pittsburgh Steelers (10-7). Last year, the teams with the better records went 1-2. □

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